

English Handwriting and Presentation Policy

September 2023

When communicating ideas in writing it is important that pupils use a handwriting style which is fluent and legible. The importance of handwriting should not be underestimated. It is vital pupils can write quickly, comfortably and legibly as this is a skill needed in many curriculum areas. Pupils' self-esteem is also heightened when they are able to take pride in their handwriting.

Aims and Purposes

- To develop a joined, confident handwriting style that is clear, legible and fluent, which will free the writer to write and not worry about letter formation.
- To foster a positive attitude towards writing.
- To establish and maintain high expectations for presentation of work.
- To ensure that pupils' recorded work is of real value to their learning.

Provision for Handwriting

We will operate a 'pen licence' scheme in order to enhance our high expectations.

Our high expectations for handwriting and presentation will be upheld across all curriculum subjects.

Teachers and support staff will act as a model when writing on the board or marking work, using a fluent joined style with accurate letter and number formation, as appropriate to the pupils' level of development.

All text displayed throughout the department, whether written or typed, will also model high expectations for handwriting and presentation.

Attention to posture and seating arrangements is important. Pupils who write with their left hand face particular difficulties and teachers need to be aware of this. Left handed pupils should either sit next to other left handed pupils or on the left side of a right handed pupil to avoid bumping arms or smudging work.

Pupils who display specific difficulties with handwriting will have these addressed through such resources as slanted writing boards, rubber pencil grips, using alternative writing media, etc. Individual cases may be referred to the Inclusion Team, where necessary.

Incorrect letter/number formation will be addressed through marking and feedback as appropriate to the developmental level of the pupil as well as through daily handwriting practise.

Expectations for Presentation

It is very important to achieve consistency towards presentation of work across the academy. The following guidelines will be used to ensure this consistency, taking into account the age and ability of pupils as appropriate:

English lessons

Key Stage Two pupils will write in pencil until they demonstrate sufficient ability to write fluently and legibly, thus earning the ability to write using a handwriting pen. PLOT stickers will be used to reinforce presentation and high standards of handwriting.

Pupils will only use pens provided by the academy. Biro or gel pens should not be used (unless they are appropriate to a specific task, such as writing a greeting card).

All work in English books will be dated with the full date (e.g. *2nd September 2025*) and will have a title or a learning objective. The pupil will write the date and title unless they are unable to or it is too time consuming for the pupil. Where this is the case, the date and title will be written or printed for that pupil.

Published Work

Display of writing could take the form of a class book or work displayed throughout the classrooms. Pupils will be encouraged to redraft written work for display, understanding the purpose and audience for which they are writing.

Any written work displayed will be of the highest standard for that individual pupil. Teachers must ensure that published work is representative of the whole class, demonstrating the highest standard for each pupil.

Books

All books should have the pupil's full name, the subject of the book and the class name.

Pupils are expected to keep their books well presented. They should not 'doodle' on the front cover, or on the pages inside. Books which are not kept well-presented may be remedied through the use of an eraser or pupils should be asked to re-write work on paper to be stuck over messy work – unacceptable presentation must be rectified and doodles removed. Inadequacies of presentation will be addressed through marking and feedback. At no point, should pages be torn out of books by pupils.

Felt tip pens should not be used in pupil books.

Home Learning

Parents will be encouraged to support their children to produce high quality work following the handwriting and presentation policy guidelines. Pupils will be expected to take the same care with home learning as they do with their class books and the same standards will be expected.

Pen Licence

To be awarded a pen licence you must always:

- Sit letters on the line with appropriate ascenders and descenders
- Form letters in a consistent size

- Represent and use upper and lower case letters accurately
- Present letters in the correct orientation
- Form letters accurately
- Have a tripod grip
- Include appropriate finger spaces
- Write in a legible style
- Demonstrate a fluent, joined script using letter joins that have been taught

Class teachers should identify pupils who they feel have reached the required standard for a Pen Licence. Pen Licences will then be awarded to pupils by the Head of Year and presented in assembly. Pupils will need to maintain a high standard of presentation to retain their licence.

Pen Licences will be renewed each academic year. When a Pen Licence is awarded, a certificate will be presented to the pupil.

Please note that it may be appropriate for a specific child to use a supportive pen although they do not hold a pen licence. This will be agreed by the English team.

English Presentation Guide

Presentation is a very important aspect of learning and allows everyone to look at your work clearly. At Oakfield Academy we always present our work to the highest standards.

If you finish half way down the page, begin a new page. If less than half way down the page, leave five lines and rule off using a ruler.

The long date should be written on the left hand side of the page and the title in the middle. Underline both neatly with a ruler. (For some pupils, your teacher may type this on a sticker for you)

1st September 2020

Mystery Story

Always make sure that your handwriting is neatly presented.

When using a pencil, always make sure it is sharp.

For any mistakes, a rubber should be used to rub out errors that have been made in pencil. If work is written in pen and a mistake is made, draw one horizontal line using a ruler.

If you are editing work, this should be done in purple pen and original work should not be rubbed out.

Pages should not be missed out. However, if you miss a page by accident, you should return to that page as soon as possible and use it.

